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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,115	08/14/2001	Sukendeep Samra	020699-004800US	9996

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EXAMINER

BRIER, JEFFERY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2628

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/930,115

Applicant(s)

SAMRA ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffery A. Brier

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 7/21/2006 has been entered.
2. The amendments to claims 22 and 23 by adding the claim from which they depend upon overcomes the objection set forth at paragraph 3 in the office action mailed on 4/18/2006. The amendments to claim 21 overcomes the 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection set forth at paragraph 8 in the office action mailed on 4/18/2006 and they introduce 35 USC 112 second paragraph issues in dependent claims 22 and 23 set forth below.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 7/21/2006 concerning the 103 rejection have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Mederer teaches to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants invention to display a flowgraph on a display with only nodes when displaying a large flowgraph as seen in figure 1 and discussed at column 5 lines 42-46 and to display a flowgraph on a display with nodes and lines L when displaying a smaller flowgraph as seen in figure 2 which illustrates displaying a flowgraph for three nodes (a1, a2, a3) as discussed at column 6 lines 34-49. Figure 3 illustrates a third way of representing the flowgraph by using a state complex representation of the flowgraph. Thus, Mederer suggests modifying Hama to display a flowgraph by displaying only nodes in the claimed inner box and the claimed navigator box because these display areas show many nodes in a small display area and

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Mederer suggests modifying Hama to display in the claimed section of the display, that displays a portion of the image, nodes and lines forming a portion of the flowgraph because this display area shows a few nodes in a larger display area.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 22:

At line 2 "the at least one node" lacks antecedent basis in the claim since claim 21 was amended to claim a "first set of nodes".

At line 2 "an outer node" is indefinite because at line 3 of claim 21 "a first set of nodes" and at line 8 of claim 21 "a second set of nodes" are claimed to form the plurality of nodes while line 2 of this claim does not clarify if the claimed "an outer node" is a one of the nodes in the second set of nodes or if it is another node. Even in light of the specification the meaning of "the plurality of nodes includes the at least one node and an outer node" is unclear.

At lines 3 and 4 the claim is unclear if the second set of nodes in being replaced by a single node.

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Claim 23:

At line 3 "the at least one node" and "the outer node" lacks antecedent basis in the claim since claim 21 was amended to claim a "first set of nodes" and a "second set of nodes".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hama et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,751,507 in view of IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin titled Project management Environment and in view of Mederer et al., US Patent No. 5,864,782.

Claim 21:

Hama teaches a method for viewing an image on a display screen (*see figures 1 and 5*),

Hama does not teach wherein the image includes a plurality of nodes in a flowgraph, wherein lines are used to interconnect a first set of nodes in the plurality of nodes that are displayed in a section of the display screen,

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Hama teaches wherein a portion of the image are is displayed in the section of the display screen (*see figures 1 and 5*) the method comprising:

displaying a navigator box (*22 of figure 5*) on the display screen;

Hama does not teach ,wherein the navigator box provides a miniature representation of a second set of nodes of the plurality of nodes;

Hama teaches displaying an inner box (*25 of figure 5*) within the navigator box (*22*),

Hama does not teach wherein the inner box provides a miniature representation of the first set of nodes of the plurality of nodes in the flowgraph,

Hama teaches wherein edges of the inner box correspond to edges of the display screen (*this claim limitation is broad since it does not state how many edges correspond to the edges of the display screen, box indicating area 25 corresponds to display screen area 23 and display screen area 23 has at least three edges corresponding to the edges of the display screen, thus, inner area 25 has at least three edges corresponding to the edges of the display screen*);

Hama teaches displaying a miniature version of the portion of the image on the display screen within the inner box (*within 22 is shown a small version of the evergreen tree shown in 23*) in correspondence with the portion of the image's position with respect to the edges of the display screen (*since at least three edges correspond to the edge of the display screen then*

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Hamas' inner box is in correspondence with the edges of the display screen), wherein the portions of the off screen image are shown in miniature within the area of the navigator box (22) that is outside of the inner box (25);

Hama does not teach such that the first set of nodes and the second set of nodes display the plurality of nodes in the flowgraph in the navigator box and the inner box; and

omitting display of the lines interconnecting the plurality of nodes in the flowgraph displayed within the inner box and the navigator box.

Hama teaches the image to be a computer controlled graphic application, column 1 lines 10-11, a stored image representation, column 1 line 34, and an image comprising a house, tree and flower, illustrated in figure 5.

The IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin teaches displaying a flowchart that is larger than the display and allowing the user to scroll through the flowchart to view different areas of the flowchart, see page 6 of the EAST printout of this document.

Figure 1 of Mederer teaches to one of ordinary skill in the art displaying only the nodes in a flowgraph when the flowgraph is very large. Figures 2 and 3 teaches to one of ordinary skill in the art displaying the lines between the nodes of the flowgraph when a few nodes are displayed. MPEP 2125 discusses using drawings as a prior art teaching.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display a flowgraph image in Hama because a flowgraph is an image corresponding to a computer controlled graphic application and because the IBM

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Technical Disclosure Bulletin teaches displaying a flowchart image that is larger than the display and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display in the navigator box an image of the flowgraph where the flowgraph does not show the lines interconnecting the nodes because displaying a large flowgraph in a small area of the display with the lines will make the nodes of the flowgraph indiscernible.

Claims 22-24 vary the number of nodes displayed in the inner box and displayed outside the inner box within the navigator box which varied number is taught by or suggested by the flowchart of the IBM technical disclosure bulletin and by the flowgraph of Mederer.

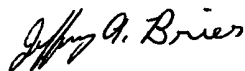
8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffery A Brier whose telephone number is (571) 272-7656. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 7:00 to 3:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached at (571) 272-7664. The fax phone Number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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